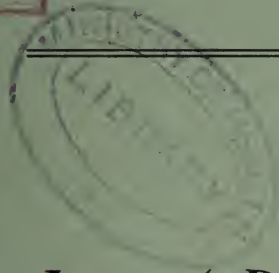


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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

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Annual Report

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1955

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Annual Report
—OF THE—
Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1955

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*THE MAYOR (Councillor J. M. WHITE, J.P.) *ex officio*

**Chairman* : Alderman J. A. DEAN

**Vice-Chairman* : Councillor W. NICHOLLS

Members :

Alderman J. BROOKS, C.C.

*Alderman A. JONES, O.B.E., J.P.

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Councillor H. BRINDLE

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Councillor J. HARDY (Miss)

*Councillor J. HIGGINS

*Councillor R. MATTHEWS

*Councillor P. NORFIELD

**Members of the Sub-Committee*

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. S. LEWIS, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.
Food Inspection

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. F. PICKLES, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.
Food Inspection (Resigned 10/2/55)

A. PARTINGTON, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.
Food Inspection (Resigned 27/8/55)

J. SMITH, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.
Food Inspection (Appointed 25/4/55)

Clerks :

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR

Miss E. SIMMS

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, together with the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report for the year 1955.

The vital statistics show little change from the preceeding years, and infectious diseases have been few and mild in form with the exception of food poisoning and dysentery. There is still a number of cases of Sonne dysentery in the country, and the number of cases in the Borough compares favourably with other towns and areas. The increase in the number of cases of food poisoning was due in the main to food infected during preparation in a neighbouring town and sold in Farnworth. The regulations governing the sale and preparation of food have become more stringent and cases of food poisoning will diminish in number. The prevention still lies in strict application of the rules of personal and general hygiene.

During the next few years it is hoped that most of the old housing property in Farnworth will be demolished and replaced on the same site, or elsewhere, with modern houses.

It is the ambition of the Council to demolish some 600 old houses during the next five years. It is a worthy ambition, and how much of this endeavour can be realised is subject to the dictates of a Government's economic policy and the availability of building supplies and labour.

The work of the Health Department continues to increase, and an incredible number of visits and inspections are carried out during the year. The public of the Borough make good use of the Department—and they are encouraged to do so—and every endeavour is made to put right their complaints in the quickest possible time. Unfortunately the quickest possible time is subject to the various acts governing procedure, and it is not always possible to put right a housing defect as rapidly as the complainants and ourselves would like.

There is still much progress to be made in the care of old people. Good work is still being done by the Farnworth Old People's Welfare Council. The chiropody service is popular and patients are increasing and the three "Over 60" clubs have an average attendance of 80, 50 and 50.

The aged and the infirm, however, present the greatest problem. Their lives are confined to the houses in which they live except for feeble occasional excursions to nearby shops. They have

ceased to be a part of the outside world and they endure the greatest trial of old age—loneliness. A television or even a wireless is Heaven's gift to these old people, and they welcome a visitor to talk to and to hear from. There is a need in Farnworth for voluntary organisations whose members would visit regularly these old people.

Every day some problem concerning an old person arrives for solution to the Health Department. Where does the solution lie when the available accommodation for the aged sick is so meagre? Some of them are without near relatives and too often when near relatives are at hand they are loth to sacrifice any of their pleasures and liberties to look after them. Old people are unwilling to leave their homes, however humble, for institutional care. They know their way about their own homes, though frail and feeble their steps, and quite naturally they wish to end their days there.

There are those cases where infirmity and illness is such that they are unable to care for themselves. It is for these cases that hospital accommodation is so difficult to get. Old people's welfare is still an unsolved problem and will continue to be so until public conscience is awakened and made aware of the plight of the unwanted old.

I am again fortunate in having every encouragement and help from members of the Council and for the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	1,504 statute acres
Population.....	27,820 Estimated mid-1955
	28,614 Census 1951
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	7,104
Number of inhabited houses, 1955	9,187
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)	£159,303
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£631

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

BIRTHS :	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	203	179	382
Illegitimate	9	11	20
TOTAL.....	212	190	402

STILL BIRTHS :	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	7	9	16
Illegitimate	—	—	—
TOTAL.....	7	9	16

	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population....	14.3	15.0
Still Births per 1,000 total births	38.0	23.1
Still Births per 1,000 population	0.57	0.35

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	2	—	2
TOTAL.....	9	4	13

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births).....	32	24.9
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	10	—
Maternal Deaths.....	Nil	437

DEATH RATE :	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
Per 1,000 population	12.2	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1955

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Pulmonary tuberculosis	2	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	14	6
Diabetes.....	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	23
Coronary disease angina	27	14
Hypertension with heart disease	2	6
Other heart disease	22	17
Other circulatory disease	9	12
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	11	2
Bronchitis	17	14
Other disease of respiratory system	4	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	6	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Congenital malformations	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	23
Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	1
Accidents	7	9
Suicide	3	—
TOTAL.....	197	149

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	AGE PERIODS — YEARS									TOTAL
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over	
Scarlet fever	—	3	7	7	1	—	—	—	—	18
Measles (excl. rubella)...	7	71	85	55	1	—	—	—	—	219
Whooping cough	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)...	7	4	3	4	2	1	2	8	5	36
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4
Dysentery	4	16	8	18	1	2	18	—	2	69
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	6	3	13
Food poisoning	—	2	4	3	6	3	10	6	—	34
Pulmonary tuberculosis .	—	—	—	1	1	3	5	4	1	15
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	19	97	111	89	12	11	40	24	11	414

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF 1955

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary tuberculosis	58	64	122
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	17	16	33
TOTAL.....	<u>75</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>155</u>

DIPHTHERIA

There were no cases of diphtheria in the resident population of Farnworth during 1955.

FOOD POISONING

Thirty-four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year 1955. Thirty-one cases were due to salmonella typhi-murium, 2 cases to salmonella heidelberg and one case to salmonella enteriditis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The supply was from Heaton Sand Filters, Ferns Park Pressure Filters and the Sweetloves Open Sand Filters, and 12 samples of both raw and filtered water were subjected to full chemical analysis and 150 samples of raw and 150 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. The results showed that general filtration and treatment of the raw water were necessary and that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in all cases. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly, the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

An additional 1,291 yards of water main, varying in diameter from 2 in. to 6 in. were laid in Farnworth during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All new drainage work and alterations to existing drainage systems are inspected by a Sanitary Inspector and, where necessary, tested by smoke test.

The disposal of sewage is almost entirely on the combined system.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The conversion of waste water closets to fresh water closets is encouraged by the local authority by a grant of £10 towards the cost of each conversion.

Accommodation at the end of 1955 :—

Number of privy middens	3
Number of closets attached to these middens ...	3
Number of pail closets	6
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	Nil
Number of movable ashbins.....	10,310
Number of trough closets	Nil
Number of waste water closets	52
Number of fresh water closets	10,325
Number of houses on water carriage system	9,285
Number of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets during the year	13

The privies and pail closets left in the area are on outlying farms where, at the moment, it is not practicable to connect to the public sewer.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor.

There is a weekly collection of house refuse and at the same time a collection of salvage carried out by three covered motor vehicles.

The refuse was disposed of by tipping in the Darley area.

The provision of dustbins to privately owned houses continues to cause difficulty as a result of the legal situation whereby responsibility for the renewal of dustbins is placed neither on owner nor occupier. The Council considered the question of a municipal dustbin scheme, by which dustbins would be renewed by the Corporation, but decided to continue with a policy of serving notices. Three property owners appealed against such notices to the Bolton County Magistrates' Court. The Court dismissed the appeals.

Seventy dustbins were provided through the actions of the Department to private houses.

VERMIN INFESTATION

The incidence of infestation of houses with *cimex lectularius* (bed bugs) was small. It was not necessary to have any houses disinfested with hydrogen cyanide. Five Council houses and 29 privately owned houses were disinfested with D.D.T. in solution. Five Council houses and 16 privately owned houses were disinfested against other insect pests.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 154

This section prohibits the giving of any article whatsoever to children under 14 years of age by persons engaged in collecting rags, old clothes or similar articles.

There were no prosecutions under this section during 1955.

In many cases in Farnworth, the law is being evaded by the rag gatherers giving balloons and toys to the parents instead of to the children. The dangers of this practice are evident when one has seen balloons inflated by the mouths of rag gatherers and toys lying cheek by jowl with rags of doubtful cleanliness. Parents cannot be warned too strongly of the danger of accepting these articles in exchange for rags.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Pet shops are inspected in co-operation with the R.S.P.C.A. Two shops were registered in Farnworth in 1955.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Twenty-seven observations were taken during the year.

In cases where smoke emission was excessive, consultations were held with the owners of the offending plants and in some cases better methods of hand firing resulted in an improvement.

There is room for great improvement in the case of atmospheric pollution in Farnworth. In co-operation with the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, two sets of apparatus have been installed to measure the amount of pollution in Farnworth, one being situated at the Hall Lane Sewage Works and the other at Corporation Store Yard, Albert Road. There are 35 local authorities in the neighbourhood of Manchester who participate in this scheme.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1955

(INCLUDING HOUSING)

Number of premises visited	1,641
	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Houses.....Public Health Act	1,029
Housing Act	492
Re-inspections	1,053
Disinfections	14
Disinfestations	65
Infectious diseases	105
Factories	43
Bakehouses	24
Milk distributors	54
Baths	7
Offices	3
Food premises.....	145
Drainage work	359
Ice cream dealers	36
Rodent control	606
Mortuary	8
Smoke observations	27
Market	20
Butchers' shops	13
Fried fish shops	2
Overcrowding	29
Piggeries	3
Licensed premises	12
Schools	2
Shops Act	22
Pet shops	2
Cinemas	5
Caravans	15
General nuisances.....	77
Miscellaneous	251
Slaughterhouses	117
Conversion of waste water closets	17
Dairies	5
Defects or nuisances :.....	
Number discovered	1,366
Number abated	990
Number of notices served :—	
Informal	335
Statutory	231

SHOPS AND OFFICES :		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Defects & Contraventions</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
(a)	Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	22	3	3
(b)	Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.....	3	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS :—		<i>No. of inspections</i>	<i>No. of written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
	<i>Premises</i>			
	Factories without mechanical power	10	—	—
	Factories with mechanical power ..	82	1	—
	Other premises	3	1	—
	TOTAL.....	95	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—			
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	7	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—
TOTAL.....	10	7	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Act requires the local authority to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the district is kept free from rats and mice and to that end to carry out such inspections as may be necessary, to destroy rats and mice on land of which the authority is the occupier and to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers under the Act.

Two rodent operatives are employed who maintain a continuous survey of the district, investigate all notifications by

occupiers, and carry out destruction measures. Twice each year they examine and treat the public sewers for rat infestation with the help of casual labour. Here it is well to point out that the notification of rodent infestation on premises is obligatory and is of great assistance to the Health Department.

Every such complaint is investigated and appropriate measures taken; whenever possible the source of infestation is found and dealt with. Very frequently in the case of rat infestation the source of infestation is found to be defects in the drainage system of the premises. The methods of treatment used are poisoning, trapping and gassing.

In particular, the use of coumaric poison "warfarin" has proved extremely effective in situations where its use is possible.

An analysis of the numbers of surface infestations found and treated follows, in which it will be seen that most of the infestations found and treated occurred in dwelling-houses. It may be that there is some reluctance on the part of occupiers of business premises to notify slight infestations because of the charge for treatment that has to be made. Dwelling-houses are treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used, the preliminary survey being carried out free of charge. It is, of course, open to the occupiers of business premises to carry out their own treatment privately.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Total
	Local Au- thority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	Other (in- cluding business & Industrial)	
Number of properties in local authority's district	33	9,292	10	922	10,257
Number of properties inspected by the local authority, primarily for rodent infestation	33	715	10	151	909
Number of properties found to be infested by rats or mice	19	98	1	18	136
Number of infested properties treated by the local authority	19	98	1	18	136

Details of sewer treatments follow. The method of treating the sewers is to place unpoisoned bait in measured quantities on the benching of the manholes on two successive days, and where such bait is taken by rats, on the third day, poisoned bait is laid. All the manholes possible are treated once during the year and those manholes showing infestation are treated again six months later.

	April 1954	October 1954
Total number of manholes ..	1054	1054
Dates of treatment	25th April to 18th May	24th October to 12th November
Bait and poison	Bread mash & arsenic	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphide
Number of manholes baited.	1023	406
Number of manholes showing prebait take	204	47
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take on one or both days	78	28

PUBLIC BATHS

The public baths are owned by the Corporation and are under the control of the Health Committee.

MORTUARY

The public mortuary, situated in Gas Street, is the responsibility of the Health Committee, but its use is mainly determined by the County police.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from :—

Dairies in Farnworth	2
Dairy farms in the district	6
Shops other than dairies	151
Premises outside the district	4

Thirteen dealers' licences to retail tuberculin tested milk were issued.

The number of licensees to retail heat treated milk was 16 for pasteurised and 147 for sterilised milk.

Ten samples of raw milk and 13 samples of heat treated milk were taken for examination for the presence of tuberculosis, all of which were satisfactory. Three samples of pasteurised milk passed the phosphatase test and 3 samples of sterilised milk passed the turbidity test.

ICE CREAM

Four premises are registered as being suitable for the manufacture of ice cream and were so used during the year.

Eight premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, making a total of 106 registered in Farnworth.

Thirty-six inspections of ice cream dealers' and manufacturers' premises were made during the year. Eight samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these, 6 were

Grade 1 and 2 were Grade 4. Steps were taken to improve the grading of the unsatisfactory producers.

PREPARATION, SALE AND STORAGE OF FOOD

One hundred and ninety-one inspections of premises where food is prepared or sold were made during the year. Proprietors responded readily to informal requests by inspectors to remedy minor infringements of the Food and Drugs Act, and the byelaws relating to the handling and wrapping of food. The provision of hot water supplies in all food premises and the protection of food from contamination continue to receive special attention.

PRESERVED FOOD

Fifty-six inspections were made of premises used in connection with the sale of preserved food. Twenty-eight such premises are registered in Farnworth.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Two private slaughter-houses are licensed in the Borough, only one of which was actually in use by the end of the year. Slaughtering was mainly carried out in the evenings and on Sundays, which necessitated a substantial amount of work by the sanitary inspectors outside normal hours of duty.

All the animals slaughtered were inspected, and there follows a table of the number of animals inspected and the amount of meat condemned.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	103	1	4	1,137	2
Number inspected	103	1	4	1,137	2
All diseases except tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	Nil	Nil	38	Nil
Percentage of the number ins- pected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.6%	Nil	Nil	3.3%	Nil
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.6%	100%	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of carcasses found to be affected with
cysticercus bovis Nil

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 AND 1954

During the year, 8 persons had their licences to slaughter animals renewed. No new licences were issued.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Articles condemned	No.	Weight (lb.)	Reason
BEEF :			
Organs or parts of carcasses	21	737	Localised tuberculosis
do.	10	88	Parasitic and other conditions
do.	1	121	Bone taint
MUTTON :			
Organs or portions of carcasses	37	75	Parasitic and other conditions
FISH :			
Salmon (tins)	4	3½	Decomposed or otherwise unfit
Pilchards (tins)	2	2	do.
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (TINS) :			
Raspberries	8	8	do.
Strawberries	2	1	do.
Fruit Salad	25	24	do.
Peaches	3	1	do.
Oranges	3	3	do.
Pineapples	18	18	do.
Pears	34	48½	do.
Bilberries	4	4	do.
Plums	13	16½	do.
Carrots	5	8½	do.
Grapes	6	10½	do.
Grapefruit	2	2½	do.
Apricots	1	1	do.
Beans	12	11½	do.
Tomatoes	28	26¾	do.
Peas	65	53½	do.
MEAT (TINNED) :			
Cooked ham	8	155	do.
Ox tongue	26	81½	do.
Corned beef	15	85½	do.
Steak	10	9	do.
Corned mutton	5	24¾	do.
Luncheon meat	10	9½	do.
Lambs' tongues	5	3½	do.
Chicken	3	7	do.
Veal	9	4½	do.
Jellied pork	2	12	do.
MISCELLANEOUS :			
Milk	37	35½	do.
Pineapple jelly	3	4½	do.
Pineapple juice	2	3¾	do.
Marmalade	29	45	do.
Popcorns	36	4½	do.
Jam	4	6	do.
Syrup	1	1	do.
Cheese	1	50	do.
Flour	2	105	do.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE END OF YEAR

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	142
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	30
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	5
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	37
Bakers and/or confectioners	46
Fried fish shops	26
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc...	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	93

HAWKERS

No hawkers were newly registered during the year; total number registered in Farnworth — 12.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938/1950, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	79
Other articles	70

The other 70 articles comprised :—

2 Castor oil	1 Vegetables, dried
2 Butter	2 Fruit, canned
3 Liquid paraffin B.P.	3 Gravy browning
1 Apples	1 College pudding
1 Oranges	2 Sweets
3 Lard	1 Sweet cigarettes
1 Vinegar	1 Lemon juice
3 Meat, canned	1 Beef sausage
1 Pork sausage, canned	2 Pork sausage
1 Curry powder	2 Penicillin tablets B.P.
1 Ammoniated tincture of quinine	2 Fruit, dried
3 Tea	1 Sage and onion stuffing
1 Mustard	1 Ground almonds
1 Liquid mustard	1 Extract of malt with cod liver oil
1 Malt and milk beverage	1 Herbs, dried
2 Orange drink	5 Gin
2 Bread	1 Brandy
1 Blancmange powder	1 White loaf
2 Olive oil	2 Tincture of iodine
2 Camphorated oil B.P.	1 Flavoured cornflour
1 Cocoa	2 Bicarbonate of soda
	1 Cornflour

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Orange drink	Contained a piece of broken glass 0.3 grams	Supplier cautioned
1 Pork sausage	Meat content only 50.5 %	Formal sample obtained
1 Pork sausage	Meat content only 55%	Vendor cautioned. This sample is a follow-up to the previous one.

HOUSING

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :— *Houses*

(i) By the local authority.....	104
(ii) By other local authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	2

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	393
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	2,564

2. Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :

(a) Number found during year.....	103
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year....	84

3. Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	290
--	-----

2. CLEARANCE AREAS (HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954) :—

1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :—

(a) Unfit houses	—
(b) Other houses	—

2. Number of persons displaced	—
--------------------------------------	---

3. HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS :—

	<i>Number of Houses Displaced Persons</i>	
1. Houses demolished or closed during year :—		
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	13	31
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	6	29
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—	—
(b) Housing Act, 1949—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3 (2)	—	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	—	—
2. Repairs during the year :	<i>Number of Houses</i>	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts....		168
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—houses in which defects were remedied :		
(i) By owners		72
(ii) By local authority in default of owners..		4
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) : Houses made fit—		
(i) By owners		5
(ii) By local authority in default of owners..		—
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)..		—

4. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE

(HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954) :—

1. Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 —
2. Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above —
3. Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) —

5. HOUSING ACT, 1949— IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.	<i>Private bodies or Individuals</i>		<i>Local Authority</i>	
Action during the year :	<i>No. of Schemes</i>	<i>No. of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected</i>	<i>No. of Schemes</i>	<i>No. of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected</i>
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	18	18	—	—
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—	—
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—	—
(d) Work completed	20	20	—	—

HOUSING CONDITIONS

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS :

Of 9,287 houses in the town, 2,939 are Corporation houses aged from 30 years to newly built, and are in good condition ; of the remainder approximately 3,000 houses are old (50 years or more) lacking in modern amenities, have solid walls and dampness is a prevalent defect in them. Most of them are 4-room cottage type, easily overcrowded.

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES :

At the end of 1955, 731 applications for Corporation houses had been received from families in lodgings.

FITNESS OF HOUSES :

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department, but there has been little improvement of housing standards as distinct from the maintenance of existing standards in rented houses.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

There follows a resume of applications for certificates of disrepair :—

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS

No. of applications for certificates	No. granted	No. rejected	No. revoked
5	5	Nil	Nil

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

No. of applications for certificates	No. granted	No. rejected	No. revoked
24	24	Nil	Nil

